

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12, 16, 18-28, and 32 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tubaro USP 4,418,887 in view of Block USP 5,104,092. The Examiner also indicated that claims 17 and 33 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Examiner asserts that each and every limitation of the rejected claims is found in Tubaro, except a teaching of the thermal properties of PTFE. The Examiner asserts that Block provides such a teaching. However, such a teaching, whether or not present in Block is not relevant to the allowance of the rejected claims.

Tubaro does not teach, suggest or disclose each and every limitation of the rejected claims. More specifically, Tubaro does not disclose a cavity which is “diamond-shaped with two end portions radially inward and outward of a central portion”. The quoted language is found in the Office Action, not in any of the claims.

Claims 1 and 18 each recite “said sealing cavity having a central portion and two end portions, one of the end portions being radially inward of the central portion with the other end portion being radially outward of the central portion, each of said end portions of the cavity being configured to converge in a direction away from the central portion”. Such a configuration is not found in Tubaro. Figure 4 of Tubaro illustrates this clearly. The portion of the cavity formed by the extension 6 consists of a radial surface and an axial surface joined by a 90° rounded corner. It is clear from figure 4 that the cavity Tubaro lacks an end portion radially inward of a central portion, configured to converge in a direction away from the central portion. The only portion of the Tubaro cavity that can constitute the central portion lies at the same radial position of one end portion, with the other end being radially outward thereof.

Applicants note that Tubaro does not disclose the annular packing 8 to be PTFE, and thus does not teach, suggest or disclose, alone, or even in combination with Block, that the seal between a fluid containment member and a joining structure be “operative to

change radial dimension in response to temperature changes by an amount that is substantially different than the change of radial dimension of the cavity in response to temperature changes". The reference to PTFE in Tubaro is to the annular packing 10, 11, which form the valve seat of the valve body 12.

Thus, Applicants assert, rejected claims 1-12, 16, 18-28, and 32 are not obvious in view of the applied art, and are, as currently pending, in condition for allowance.

Applicants note that with the allowance of these claims, claims 13-15 and 29-31 are properly reinstated and allowable. Upon allowance of these claims, applicants wish to amend the dependency of claim 15, but are precluded from doing so at this time since claim 15 is withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants note that in the Appendix in the previously filed response, the amendment to the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 9, the word "sealing" was misspelled as "seallling". However, in the Amendment proper, "sealing" was spelled correctly. It is Applicants' understanding that the spelling in the Amendment prevails and no amendment is necessary in this response. If not, Applicants' respectfully request the Examiner to enter the corrected spelling by Examiner's amendment, or notify Applicants to submit an additional amendment.

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Customer No. 26874

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact the below signed attorney by phone if there are any unresolved issues regarding allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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